



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

EcoNewsWire

Environmental Services

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Ehm, division administrator of DNR environmental side, to retire

DES MOINES, Iowa – Iowa Department of Natural Resources Environmental Services Division Administrator Bill Ehm has announced his retirement, set for Sept. 20.

Ehm has led the DNR's environmental division for seven years and previously served as a commissioner and chair on the Environmental Protection Commission, beginning in 1989.

"We are extremely grateful for Bill's work and dedication to our department," said Acting DNR Director Bruce Trautman. "His leadership has opened new doors and taken our environmental work and advocacy to new heights. Bill will certainly be missed and the impact he's had on our great state."

Ehm, a resident of West Des Moines and a native of Creston, has also served the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship and as a farmer in his hometown of Creston.

"To have the good fortune to lead the great staff of the Environmental Services Division has been a true joy," Ehm said. "Their dedication to the conservation and enhancement of Iowa's natural resources is matched only by their commitment to serving the public in a positive and proactive matter. I leave a team of leaders of which I am very proud."

Ehm plans to spend time with his wife, kids and 16 grandchildren, as well as his parents and their farm in southern Iowa.

Howard County watershed improvement efforts drawing national attention

MEDIA CONTACT: Steve Konrady, Iowa DNR, 515-725-8388 or Steven.Konrady@dnr.iowa.gov.

HOWARD COUNTY – Local efforts in Howard County to improve water quality are receiving national attention.

Through their partnership with local landowners, Howard SWCD has been able to use funding from the DNR and other partners to improve water quality throughout the county, stabilizing streambanks across multiple watersheds.

The [National Association of Conservation Districts](#) (NACD) has featured the project on its [blog](#), including work on Tim Huhe's land to protect livestock and help reduce erosion. Huhe's cattle grazed a pasture on his land that abutted a stream, but in some sections, the bank was eroded, undercut or destroyed. The cows would sometimes fall into the stream unaware, becoming injured or falling to their death. Howard Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) conducted surveys of the land and created designs for a streambank stabilization project on Huhe's property. The district completed its work within a week after beginning construction and now uses this project as an example county-wide.

In 2018, NACD, in partnership with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) awarded funds through their technical assistance grants program to Howard SWCD. Through these funds, the district was able to assist local landowners with planning, design, land surveys and implementation of streambank management. In Howard County, 11 projects have been selected for bank stabilization practices, totaling more than 6,000 feet of improved streambanks.

Since 2012, the DNR has helped fund a watershed improvement project on Silver Creek with funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Section 319 program. The Iowa DNR has invested nearly \$500,000 of EPA 319 grant funding to the project. Those funds, along with the work of local project staff with local farmers and landowners, have leveraged more than \$3 million of clean water investments in these tributaries to one of Iowa's most popular paddling destinations, the Upper Iowa River.

DNR enforcement actions

DES MOINES – DNR staff work with individuals, businesses and communities to help them protect our natural resources by complying with state and federal laws. This approach is very effective. In the few cases where compliance cannot be achieved, the

DNR issues enforcement actions. The following list summarizes recent enforcement actions. Find the entire, original orders on DNR's website at www.iowadnr.gov/EnforcementActions.

Consent Orders

A consent order is issued as an alternative to issuing an administrative order. A consent order indicates that the DNR has voluntarily entered into a legally enforceable agreement with the other party.

Buena Vista County

City of Storm Lake

Comply with NPDES permit and pay \$8,000 penalty for illegal bypass of untreated wastewater.

Clayton County

Walz Energy

Walz Energy LLC has entered into an administrative consent order with DNR to address violations at its site in Clayton County. Violations addressed include illegal discharges to a water of the state, multiple ongoing violations of its stormwater NPDES permit and a violation of its wastewater construction permit. Walz Energy has agreed to payment of a \$10,000 administrative penalty and to comply with its NPDES stormwater permit.

Dickinson/Milford County

Heller Enterprises, LLC, aka Northwest Iowa Sprinkler and Douglas and Rebecca Heller
Cease open burning of solid wastes, properly remove and dispose of any remaining waste, and pay \$3,000 penalty.

Woodbury County

Whiskey Creek Feedlot, Inc.

Pay \$7,000 penalty for past water supply permitting violations.

Air Quality permits under review

MEDIA CONTACT: Lori Hanson, DNR, at 515-725-9525
or Lori.Hanson@dnr.iowa.gov for Title V permits.

DES MOINES – The DNR Air Quality Bureau has the following draft permits up for review. The permits help protect Iowans' health and the air where we live. DNR's permitting staff review the applications to ensure facilities comply with state and federal air quality standards. The public has the right and is encouraged to comment on draft permits. DNR considers [public comments](#) before finalizing the permits. Submit comments in writing to the assigned permit writer before 4:30 p.m. on the last day of the public comment period.

Title V Operating Permits

Title V Operating permits are reviewed and re-issued every five years. Facilities with a Title V permit have the potential to emit large amounts of air pollutants compared to other facilities. The five-year reviews are a federal requirement and ensure adequate monitoring is included in the permit. The DNR plans to issue Title V Operating Permits for the following facilities. Find permit details at www.iowadnr.gov/titlev-draft.

Clinton County

Guardian Industries – DeWitt located at 300 S. Fifth Ave E., Dewitt.

The application was submitted to operate their existing Flat Glass facility. The public comment period ends Sept. 22.

Scott County

MidAmerican Energy Co. - Riverside Station located at 6001 State St., Bettendorf

The application was submitted to operate their existing Electric Services facility. The public comment period ends Sept. 22.